AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a fibrous web suitable for the production of hygiene articles, in particular for incontinence articles, disposable diapers, panty liners or sanitary napkins, or absorbent liners, the fiber content of which consists ~~exclusively~~ essentially of cellulose fibers of natural origin, comprising the following procedural steps:

- forming an essentially uniformly thick, dry fiber layer from loose fibers having a low moisture content that is in the range of residual moisture,
- ~~pressing and~~ embossing the fiber layer to obtain a fibrous web and forming an embossed pattern with compressed fiber bond zones in which the fibers are essentially interconnected and self-bonding,
- moistening the fibrous web with a water-latex mixture on at least one of the outer zones,
- after the step of embossing, precipitating the latex by drying while bonding the fibers inside and outside the fiber bond zones,

whereby the resulting fibrous web exhibits dust due to fluff that is less than 0.1% of that of the web prior to the steps of embossing, moistening and precipitating.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the areal weight of the dried fibrous web is set to a range of between 20 and 500 ~~g/m2~~g/m^2, ~~preferably between 100 to 200 g/m2~~.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the upper and lower side of the web are moistened with the water-latex mixture in successive steps.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the water-latex mixture contains 90 to 99% by weight water and 10 to 1% by weight latex.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, characterized in that the water-latex mixture contains 92 to 99% by weight water and 8 to 1% by weight latex.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the water-latex mixture contains 95 to 99% by weight water and 5 to 1% by weight latex.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, characterized in that, during and/or after moistening of the fibrous web, the penetration of the moisture into the fibrous web is controlled with aid of a negative pressure applied to the fibrous web.

8. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the pressing and embossing of the fiber layer takes place in a press roll arrangement, whereby at least one roll is a toothed roll.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, dependent on the areal weight of the fiber layer, different embossing pressures in the range of 30 N/mm to 120 N/mm line pressure are applied.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that superabsorbent polymers (SAP), preferably as superabsorbent fibers, are added to the fiber layer or the fibrous web prior to ~~the pressing and~~ embossing.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that the superabsorbent polymers (SAP)~~, preferably as superabsorbent fibers,~~ are inserted in the fiber layer while ~~forming layers~~said fiber layer is being formed.

12. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that superabsorbent polymers (SAP) are added in homogeneous distribution to the cellulose fibers prior to laying the fibers.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that 16 to 49 compressed fiber bond zones are inserted per ~~cm2~~ cm^2 of the fibrous web.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the compressed fiber bond zones each cover an area of 0.03 to 1 ~~mm2~~mm^2.

15. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the water-latex mixture is applied with aid of rolls as a foam coating or by spraying.

16. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the drying of the water for precipitating the latex takes place with aid of radiant heat or by blowing warm air through the fibrous web.

17. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a biologically degradable latex, in particular a starch-based latex, is used.

18. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, after precipitation and drying, the latex on at least one side of the fibrous web is hydrophilic.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that different ~~latices~~ lattices are used for the opposite sides of the fibrous web.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, characterized in that, after precipitation and drying, the latex on the one side of the fibrous web is hydrophilic and hydrophobic on the other side.

21. (Currently amended) ~~To produce a~~A fibrous web that is suitable for manufacturing hygiene articles, ~~produced according to claim 1~~, wherein said web ~~has~~having a degree of dust of less than 0.2%, measured according to a standardized method and wherein said web is produced by:

a) forming an essentially uniformly thick, dry fiber layer from loose fibers having a low moisture content that is in the range of residual moisture.

b) embossing the fiber layer to obtain a fibrous web and forming an embossed pattern with compressed fiber bond zones in which the fibers are essentially interconnected and self-bonding.

c) moistening the fibrous web with a water-latex mixture on at least one of the outer zones; and

d) precipitating the latex by drying while bonding the fibers inside and outside the fiber bond zones.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the areal weight of the dried fibrous web is set to a range of between 100 and 200 ~~g/m2~~g/m².

23. (Previously added) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that the superabsorbent polymers (SAP) are superabsorbent fibers.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, characterized in that the superabsorbent fibers are inserted in the fiber layer while forming layers.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, characterized in that superabsorbent fibers are added in homogeneous distribution to the cellulose fibers prior to laying the fibers.